

## The Crucible Study Guide

**Directions:** While reading *The Crucible*, answer the following questions. Unlike journal entries, you do NOT have to write your responses in complete sentences.

### Act I

1. Why has Reverend Parris sent for the doctor, and what is his reply?
2. What does Parris question his niece Abigail about?
3. What is Parris' main concern?
4. What shocking thing did Parris see in the woods the previous night?
5. What has Elizabeth Proctor said about Abigail?
6. What is Abigail's explanation for the Proctors firing her?
7. What rumors are circulating the town about Betty Parris?
8. Why did Mrs. Putnam send Ruth to see Tituba?
9. Who does Abigail accuse of conjuring spirits at this point? Why?
10. What does Betty Parris reveal about what happened in the woods?
11. What threat does Abigail make to the other girls?
12. What happened in the past between John Proctor and Abigail? How does each of them feel about it now?
13. How does John Proctor feel about Reverend Parris?
14. What is the dispute between John Proctor and Thomas Putnam?

15. Why is Reverend Hale called to Salem? Why is he considered as expert in his field?

16. What does Giles Corey reveal to Reverend Hale?

17. When Reverend Hale questions Abigail, whom does she blame?

18. What ultimatum is Tituba given?

19. Who does Tituba accuse of being a witch?

20. Why do Abigail and Betty start accusing people at this point?

## Act II

1. Explain the dual (2) causes of John Proctor's guilt?

2. At the beginning of this act, John Proctor says, "It is a winter in here yet." Why does this relate to what is going on?

3. Why has Mary Warren disobeyed her employers and gone to Salem?

4. What did Abigail Williams reveal to John Proctor? (Elizabeth reminds him of this.)

5. Why hasn't John told the court what he knows?

6. What lie did John Proctor tell to Elizabeth that makes her more suspicious of him?

7. What news does Mary Warren reveal to John and Elizabeth about the expanding trials?

8. How does Mary Warren's behavior towards her employers change?

9. What does Mary Warren mean when she says, "I saved her life today!"?

10. What does Elizabeth realize when she finds out that she has been "mentioned"?

11. What does Elizabeth ask John to do?
12. Why does Reverend Hale visit the Proctors?
13. How does John Proctor respond to questions about why he has not been to church?
14. What test question does Reverend Hale ask John Proctor to answer?
15. Describe the 2 meanings of "Adultery, John."
16. What information does John Proctor reveal to Reverend Hale, and what does he want John to do with this information?
17. Why does Elizabeth say that she doesn't believe in witches as this point?
18. What news does Giles Corey reveal to the Proctors and Reverend Hale?
19. What has Rebecca Nurse been accused of?
20. What has Martha Corey been accused of?
21. Why do Ezekiel Cheever and Marshal Harrick arrive at the Proctor's house?
22. Explain why Cheever is both astonished and afraid when he finds the poppet with the needle in it?
23. What does John ask Mary Warren to do, and why is she afraid to do so?
24. What does Marry Warren warn John about testifying against Abigail?
25. What does John Proctor decide to do?

### Act III

1. As this act opens, what accusation does Giles Corey make? Why isn't he allowed to present his evidence in court?

2. What is Danforth's title, and what is Hawthorne's title?
3. What news do we learn about Rebecca Nurse?
4. When John Proctor arrives at court with Mary Warren, what does Reverend Parris accuse him of?
5. What 2 pieces of evidence are brought out against Proctor regarding his Christian nature?
6. What news does Danforth tell John Proctor about Elizabeth?
7. What deal does Danforth try to make with Proctor?
8. What is going to happen to the 91 people who signed the testament about Elizabeth, Martha Corey, and Rebecca Nurse?
9. What is the irony in the biblical quote, "Do that which is good, and no harm shall come to thee"?
10. What is Giles Corey's proof that Thomas Putnam is "reaching out for land"? Why won't he reveal his source?
11. What happens to Giles Corey?
12. What is Reverend Hale's advice to John Proctor when he is about to read his deposition?
13. What is Danforth's explanation for why this is not necessary? What is the literary term for this logic?
14. What does Danforth think Mary Warren's appearance in court might be?
15. How does Hawthorne intend to disprove Mary Warren's deposition? (test)
16. What does Abigail say when suspicion that she might be pretending falls on her?
17. What is the nature of Proctor's sacrifice?

18. Explain how Danforth decides to test John's accusation of Abigail, and explain the irony of what happens?
19. What happens when Reverend Hales states that Abigail has always seemed false to him?
20. What is Mary Warren's reaction to Abigail's performance?
21. Why do the girls repeat Mary's words? What does this say about the trial in general?
22. What does John Proctor mean when he says, "God is dead!"?
23. What does Hale do when Proctor is arrested?
24. How does Act III serve as Hale's turning point?

## Act IV

1. What has happened to the women imprisoned in jail? Why?
2. Why has Reverend Hale returned to Salem, and how will he accomplish this?
3. What does Reverend Parris reveal about his niece Abigail?
4. What is the condition of Salem at this point?
5. How is Andover different from Salem at this point?
6. How do the proposed hangings of Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor differ from the past executions?
7. What does Reverend Parris want Danforth to do? Why?
8. What does Reverend Hale want Danforth to do? Why?
9. What does Reverend Hale mean when he says, "there is blood on my head!"?

10. Why does Danforth refuse to postpone the hangings? What does this say about the logic of the court?
11. What do Hale and Danforth request of Elizabeth Proctor?
12. What happened to Giles Corey? How does this end the land dispute between the Putnams and the Coreys?
13. What is John's excuse for confessing?
14. What is Elizabeth's proof that John is a good man?
15. How has Elizabeth changed since we first met her?
16. Why does Danforth bring Rebecca to hear Proctor's confession?
17. After John confesses, what does Danforth want him to do? What will Danforth gain from this?
18. Explain the quota, "I am John Proctor! You will not use me!"